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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,627	02/16/2006	Masaaki Shibata	20060162A	2861
513 7590 10/13/2006 WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 K STREET N. W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			EXAMINER GONZALEZ, JULIO C	
			ART UNIT 2834	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/568,627	Applicant(s) SHIBATA ET AL.	
	Examiner Julio C. Gonzalez	Art Unit 2834	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO 02/057624) in view of Flamang (WO 03/031811).

Wobben discloses a wind power turbine having a nacelle installed on a tower (see figure 1) and having a main shaft 11, blades 13 and the main shaft 11 being supported via a single double row tapered roller bearing 15 (see figure 2 & abstract). Moreover, it is shown that shaft 11 has an annular or disk shape and its outer diameter is larger than its axial length (see figure 1).

However, Wobben does not show explicitly having a gear box connected to the main shaft.

On the other hand, Flamang discloses for the purpose of effectively minimizing time maintenance to wind power turbines, a main rotor 110 connected to a gear box 130 and having a coupling 150 in between the shaft 110 and gear box 130 (see figure 1) and the output is sent to a generator 140.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design a wind turbine as disclosed by Wobben and to modify the invention by connecting a main shaft to a gear box for the purpose of effectively minimizing time maintenance to wind power turbines as disclosed by Flamang.

3. Claims 2, 6, 7, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben and Flamang as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ai (US 5,975,762).

The combined wind power system discloses all of the elements above. However, the combined wind power system does not disclose using a three-row roller bearing.

On the other hand, Ai discloses for the purpose of using bearings that can carry effectively high radial load and thrust loads all through its tapered rollers that three row roller bearings are well known in the art (column 1, lines 36 – 43). Moreover, it is disclose inherently that roller 140 can receive the radial forces while rollers 136, 138 can receive thrust loads (see figures 11, 12).

Taking into account the clear advantages of using a three row roller bearing, it would have been obvious to use modify the bearing disclose by Wobben and to use the bearing disclose by Ai.

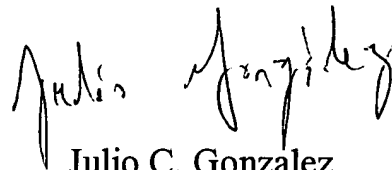
It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design a wind turbine as disclosed above and to modify the invention by using a three row roller bearing for the purpose of using bearings that can carry effectively high radial load and thrust loads all through its tapered rollers as taught by Ai.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julio C. Gonzalez whose telephone number is 571-272-2024. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8AM-5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Julio C. Gonzalez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2834

Jcg

October 12, 2006